

# KENTUCKY IRISH AMERICAN.

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## HOMESPUNS.

Revival of the Oldest and Most Important of Ireland's Industries.

Spinning Wheels Are Humming Again in Many a Home.

Goods Exported to the United States Find Ready Sale.

CLOTH IS FASHIONABLE EVERYWHERE

In the little thatched cottages of Donegal and Connemara looms and spinning wheels are busy manufacturing homespun for royal wearers. The Kings and Queens of Europe have decided that these manufactures are fit for court attire, and the peasants of the North and West of Ireland are reaping a golden harvest.

Two years ago Queen Victoria ordered a large quantity of Irish home-made woollens. This immediately created an outside interest in the goods and a few weeks sufficed to set all the idle looms in motion. Orders are now being received from every city in Europe and several lots have been exported to the United States. A large order recently came from Persia, and even in Australia the homespun is not unknown. The peasants are rapidly becoming prosperous compared with their circumstances a few years ago. The new market for their goods has claimed every yard they manufacture, so that while royalty flaunts the homespun the cottiers are content with the cheaper mill article.

For hundreds of years the peasantry of Ireland clothed themselves in garments of their own manufacture. Less than fifty years ago no wedding was complete without a spinning wheel heading the list of presents from the parents of the bride. Even in "poor old Ireland," however, machinery has made such strides that had Queen Victoria delayed much longer in placing the first royal order for the homespun the sound of the loom would not now be heard in the land. As it is, old wheels are being dusted and renovated; fingers that had almost forgotten the duties required of them are being quickened again to work, and young hands are rapidly becoming expert with practice.

Donegal is the center of the present activity in homespun circles, and the cottages along the mountain sides are filled with the hum of busy workers. The entire family spend the winter months at reel, wheel and loom. When the days lengthen and the sun grows more genial work on the little patch of ground necessitates a decrease in their production. Potatoes must be planted, a few cabbage plants "dibbled" in the ridges and a root or two of oats "trenched." Then follows the hay-making season, with its delightful weather and cloudless sky. No matter how many orders royalty may send for homespun these hardy hill folks will "take things easy in summer days." These simple peasantry live to please themselves, and their pleasure is usually the fulfillment of a general desire to take their own time for doing things. They like the sunshine and the growing meadows, the green pastures and the moss-covered banks. There is something in the white thorn that calls them to the hedgerow when it is white with blossoms, and not for gold would they miss the small birds' chorus. Therefore it follows that the homespun harvest will be reaped only when the rain beats pitilessly on the roof and the wind moans and groans in the wicker chimney.

A cottage owning a loom may always be known by its unusual length. The loom fills one end of the cottage, which is only one story in height. Additional floor space for spinning wheels makes a greatly increased frontage necessary. This is done at the expense of proportion and gives the abode a squat appearance that is deceiving. The walls of the cottages are whitewashed a couple of times each year and are remarkable for their cleanliness.

The machines used in manufacturing the homespun are amazingly crude in appearance. They are very serviceable and enduring, in spite of their lack of finished workmanship. Looms are handed down from one generation to another and the secret of the age of most of the spinning wheels belongs to the workers of another time. All the machines are permeated with the odor of turf smoke, and the natural color of the wood used in their construction has long since been dyed black by the burnt peat.

It is astonishing with what accuracy these century old machines operate. On one of these old looms was woven the Irish linen presented to Queen Victoria on the occasion of her jubilee in 1887. The linen was said to be the finest ever manufactured.

Predictions have been made to the effect that the homespun industry will again spread over the whole of Ireland. Little surprise will be caused by this, at least to those who have followed the growth of the lace industry during the past few years. In many districts it has been almost impossible to engage servants on account of their being busily employed working at the most costly Irish lace and other kinds of fancy needle work. Schools have been established at



F. J. KIERCE, SAN FRANCISCO.  
Supreme President of the Young Men's Institute.

different centers of population for instruction in lace work, and as many as fifty pupils attend single seminars daily. Special sales of Irish home-made products have been held with great success in London, Dublin and Belfast.

The lace and homespun industries are closely allied. The peasants of the South have practically a monopoly of the lace business, while the homespun weaving center is in the North. Years ago large quantities of woollen fabrics were manufactured near Belfast, but the cottage looms have long since been ousted by the big factories employing thousands of men and women.

Most of the homespun are sold to the merchants of the very small villages dotting the country. They are then purchased in bulk by the big retailer, who receives orders from all parts of the world. At present an attempt is being made to deal directly with the people without the interference of the middleman. As there is every chance of its succeeding it is to be earnestly hoped that the weavers themselves will reap the harvest.

## SINCERE REGRETS.

Covington Odd Fellows Make Amende Honorable to Catholics.

An apology from the Odd Fellows of the city was read from the pulpits of all the Catholic churches of Covington on last Sunday, says the Catholic Telegraph. The circumstances of the apology were as follows: Eight years ago Odd Fellows' Hall, which up to that time had been rented occasionally by the various Catholic churches and societies for social functions, was the scene of a violent, malicious and false attack upon the church by the notorious ex-Priest Kolin. The parishes of the city were advised by Very Rev. Ferdinand Brossart, V. G., to refrain from using the hall thereafter and have never used it since. As the rental obtained from Catholics before the above-mentioned incident had been considerable the Odd Fellows two weeks ago asked Father Bossart why the Catholics had not been renting the hall as was their wont years ago. The Vicar General plainly told them the reason. The apology was the outcome. After expressing regret over the occurrence, the resolutions adopted say: "We hereby desire to express to the Catholics of Covington our sincere regrets over the aforesaid occurrence, and that we are ever determined that neither they nor any other honorable class of our citizens shall, with our knowledge and permission, ever be calumniated or maligned in the hall over which we have control."

## FORGOT NOT THE MINERS.

Bishop Scanlon, of Salt Lake City, has received from Mrs. Mary Judge a letter informing him of her purpose to donate, as a memorial to her late husband, who amassed a great fortune from his mines, a home for aged and infirm miners, with a hospital connected in which the poor and unfortunate may receive medical and surgical treatment. Bishop Scanlon is authorized to begin building at once and draw on Mrs. Judge for all expenditures. The institution will be open to people of every race and faith. Among those familiar with Mrs. Judge's affairs it is understood that she has a site in mind for the home and contemplates expending from \$50,000 to \$100,000 on it. Mrs. Judge's donations have been characterized by great liberality in the past. Aside from a multiplicity of unknown and unrecorded gifts and charities, she contributed \$10,000 to the Cathedral fund, and between that figure and \$20,000 for memorial windows more recently.

## DANGER POINT PASSED.

We are pleased to be able to state that Charles A. Villier, the big-hearted and genial Secretary-Treasurer of the Kentucky Public Elevator Company, has almost entirely recovered from the threatened attack of pneumonia which confined him to his home for the past ten days.

## DR. FOWLER

Gives an Interesting Interview on the Recent Federation Convention.

Greatest Assemblage of Catholics Ever Seen in This Country.

Love of Church and Country the Two Leading Principles.

## AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN HISTORY

A representative of the Kentucky Irish American called upon Dr. J. W. Fowler, who so ably represented the Catholics of Kentucky in the Catholic Federation convention which last week met in Cincinnati, and requested him to relate the part he took in the proceedings and his impressions of the convention and its work. Dr. Fowler said:

"I am very partial to the Kentucky Irish American, and would, if I possessed the power, tell you all I saw and know of what is regarded by leading Catholics, both clerical and lay, to be the greatest Catholic convention that ever assembled in the United States, but it would be impossible for me to tell you what transpired in this big four days' session convention, which from the hour it started until it closed worked night and day to such an extent that its members were physically worn out.

"The convention was a delegated body, representing all portions of our American possessions, and was called for the purpose of federating, if possible, the Catholic societies of America. Hon. Edward J. McDermott and myself were elected by the Catholic Union of Kentucky as its representatives in the convention, with full power to act. On account of the illness of my colleague's wife he was unable to attend and therefore I was compelled to stand alone in advocating such measures as I thought our section of the country desired, and where I failed in my efforts I feel that it was because I had not the aid of my distinguished fellow-delegate. I reached the convention hall just as the first session was called to order. It was truly an inspiring sight and made an impression on me which will fade only with death. The convention was held in the Auditorium, a small but elegant theater, which was gayly draped with American flags and bunting and the effect was one of brilliancy and patriotism. In the center of the stage was a large portrait of our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII., and one of our President, Theodore Roosevelt, hooked together by festoons of American flags. On the stage, occupying the center, stood the temporary President, Henry Fries, of Erie, Pa. Around and about him sat His Grace Archbishop Elder, of Cincinnati; Gov. Nash, of Ohio; Mayor Fleischman, of Cincinnati; Right Rev. Bishop McFall, of Trenton, N. J.; Right Rev. Bishop Messmer, of Green Bay, Wis.; Right Rev. Bishop Maes, of Covington, Ky.; Right Rev. Bishop Hortmann, of Cleveland, O.; Judge Thomas W. Fitzgerald, of New York; Hon. T. B. Minnehan, of Columbus, O.; Hon. John J. Coyle, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Hon. Thomas B. McKenna, of Long Branch, N. J., and many others, forming the most distinguished body of Catholic divines and laymen I ever saw.

"The first time I received recognition from the chair was upon a point of order, raised by myself, to the effect that the convention could not proceed to business until its Committee on Credentials reported. I spoke to this point because the President was making up his committees with only a portion of the roll of membership before him. The chair declared the point of order well taken, but

declared that as he was making up his committee slowly, he thought in order to expedite business that the convention could transact business pending the report of the committee. Still holding the floor, I replied that under parliamentary rules, as I understood them, any business transacted would be regarded as illegal until the membership of the convention had been ascertained, and that while I had not come to the convention for the purpose of impeding it in any way, but on the contrary, had come to strew flowers upon the path of those who had made it such a signal success, yet I regarded it of paramount importance that the convention should proceed properly and lawfully. Pending the discussion the committee on credentials made their report.

"My next recognition by the chair was upon a motion which had the effect of depriving women of membership in the convention. I had decided convictions upon this subject and expressed myself favorably to their admission. This part of the debate on the constitution was the most exciting and hardest fought of any and brought out the most brilliant speeches from both priest and layman. A cold blooded delegate from the Far East charged the "gentlemen from Kentucky" as speaking only from a sentimental or chivalrous standpoint. My reply was that chivalry to a certain extent might be the impelling motive, but that I had spoken from a sense of justice, that our Kentucky Union admitted women to its membership, and that I, as its delegate, could not do otherwise than contend for them. At this point a fine-looking, good-natured German delegate got the floor and declared there was an old German proverb which said "Leave your wife at home," and before he could explain what he meant the convention had broken into uproarious laughter, which had the effect of helping those speaking for the women. The final vote, which resulted in favor of the ladies, was very close, so much so that it was necessary to call the roll. My last recognition by the chair was when I arose to put Louisville in nomination for the next convention. Several cities were put in nomination, but one by one withdrew until Louisville and Chicago were left to be balloted for. From open expressions from all over the house I felt that I had the race won, when the unexpected happened. The Secretary announced from the stage that it was the wish of Right Rev. Bishop McFall that Chicago be selected as the next place of meeting. There were cries from all over the house to withdraw Louisville and counter-cries not to withdraw, that Louisville would win, but recognizing that the distinguished divine was the guiding spirit of the federation idea, and purely out of respect to his wishes, I made a speech withdrawing Louisville and moved that Chicago be unanimously chosen.

"Aside from personalities, the work of the convention was complete and harmonious, federating upon lines acceptable to all. The plan which finally prevailed was the State Federation plan—each county in the State to organize and send delegates, as provided in the constitution (which the Press Committee will soon issue), to a State convention, which will meet annually, and the State convention to send delegates to the national convention, which also convenes once a year, the next meeting to be held on July 16, 1902, in Chicago.

"My impression of the convention as a whole is one of respect and admiration. The members were earnest and sincere, many of them fine thinkers and eloquent speakers, and all of them seemed to be imbued with but two leading principles, namely, love of Catholic faith and love of the Republic of the United States. God and Country was the motto, and all else faded into insignificance. There were many dramatic scenes in the convention which I am powerless to portray, but I firmly believe that the American Federation of Catholic Societies, so compactly united upon a platform of equal rights to all, will live in history as the most important factor outside the church itself for the common weal of all American citizens."

## FATHER CRONIN.

Popular Priest Placed in Temporary Charge of St. Patrick's.

The Rev. Father James P. Cronin, one of the most able and popular priests in the Louisville diocese, has been placed in temporary charge of St. Patrick's church, and many of his admirers hope that he may receive the permanent appointment to the rectory of that large congregation. He is also acting as Chancellor of the diocese.

Father Cronin is a zealous priest and an orator of decided ability, and is a great favorite with all to whom he has ministered. Rev. Father Kelleher's legion of friends would rejoice over his appointment. At present he is not enjoying good health, and has for some weeks past been undergoing treatment at St. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital. No assistant rector was ever held in higher esteem by the people of St. Patrick's than is Father Kelleher.

Right Rev. Bishop McCloskey has not yet given any intimation as to whom the appointment will be given, and it may be several weeks before his final decision is made public. There would be great rejoicing over the appointment of either of the two above mentioned.

At St. Louis yesterday ground was broken for the world's fair to be held there in 1903.

## COERCION.

All Portents Indicative of a Stormy Winter in Ireland.

Redmond's Reception Causes Britain to View Things Seriously.

Members of Parliament Summoned Before Coercion Courts.

## REINSTATED AFTER TWENTY YEARS

The Dublin correspondent of the New York World writes that the manner in which John E. Redmond and the other Irish delegates have been received in the United States has invigorated the Nationalists and caused the British Government to take a much more serious view of the situation in Ireland than it took before.

Irish Secretary Wyndham is reviving coercion prosecutions in order to check the rapidly growing influence of the United Irish League. Two members of Parliament, Connor O'Kelly and John Hayden, together with several other Leaguers, have already been summoned before the coercion courts for making speeches in which they advised their constituents to boycott the men who have taken the farms from which the tenants have been evicted.

The tribunal consists of two resident Magistrates, who may be dismissed without notice by the Viceroy if the sentences they impose are not severe enough. Experience has shown that these Magistrates almost invariably impose the utmost term within their power—six months' imprisonment with hard labor. O'Kelly and Hayden have repeated the offending speeches since they were summoned.

The United Irish League is now one of the most formidable organizations that has ever confronted Dublin Castle. All portents indicate a stormy winter in Ireland.

The farmers have stopped the hunting in Roscommon as a reprisal on the landlords. In Limerick the tenants who were evicted from the O'Grady estate twenty years ago and have since been supported by the Irish Nationalist organization have just been reinstated in their holdings at half the rack-rents they were evicted for being unable to pay.

There is no agrarian crime in the country, the policy of the League being passive resistance to the unjust exactions of the landlords.

Ladies Cadogan, Lansdowne, Pembroke and the Duchess of Abercorn have ordered their coronation robes made in Ireland. Lady Cadogan has written to all the Irish peeresses asking them to do likewise. This action follows the example set by the Queen, who desires that the coronation robes of the English peeresses shall be made in England. This blow at Paris the pretty peeresses oppose, for they fear that the London modistes will make frights of them.

Dublin dispatches dated Monday state that large numbers of constabulary have been drafted to important points in Mayo and Roscommon, and a proclamation placing both counties under the crimes act is expected to be issued immediately. This influx of extra police is unprecedented since the days of Capt. Boycott. Nationalist members of Parliament and United Irish League speakers have been most active in Mayo and Roscommon recently preaching forcible resistance to the authorities. Dublin's reception of Messrs. Redmond, McHugh and O'Donnell on their return from the United States will take the form of a torchlight procession and addresses at the Mansion House.

The municipal council Tuesday voted



GEN. JAMES F. SMITH.  
One of the Founders of the Young Men's Institute.

## PRIEST KILLED.

Father John Valk Meets a Horrible Death in South America.

Shot by Liberals and Body Hacked to Pieces With Machetes.

Was Once Assistant Pastor at St. Mary's, This City.

## MANY SHOCKED BY AWFUL NEWS

Dispatches received at New Orleans last Sunday by Rev. Father Francis Brockmeier, rector of St. Francis of Assisi church, convey the news of the murder of the Rev. Father John Valk at David, a town on the Pacific coast, in the republic of Colombia, where the revolution is now raging. The faithful priest was shot to death.

Although a native of Fulda, Germany, Father Valk came to the United States when a young man and was assigned to the Diocese of Louisville, where he was beloved by his parishioners. Then he became interested in missionary work in Central America, on the Isthmus of Panama. He applied to the Holy Father in Rome and was assigned to Bocas del Toro. The particulars are meager, but they show that Father Valk met with a horrible death. After he had been shot to death his murderers fell upon his prostrate and inanimate body and hacked it to pieces with knives and machetes. The death created great sorrow and much indignation in various circles where he was known.

Father Valk was well known in the Diocese of Louisville, and won the love and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. For some time he was stationed at St. Mary's church on Eighth street, and afterward was on the mission in Kentucky. He will be remembered throughout the State as a priest of great learning, for he spoke German, Spanish, French, English and Latin fluently. Father B. F. Cunningham, rector of Holy Cross church, West Broadway, received his first appointment at the time Father Valk died, and the two were very warm friends.

About eleven years ago Father Valk conceived his mission to be among the Indians of South America, and he went to Panama in 1890. In 1896 he returned to Kentucky and was assigned by Bishop McCloskey to Danville, where he served for four years. At the earnest solicitation of the Bishop of Panama he returned to South America four years ago. His mission was among the Indians. He made his life among them and was at the last accounts performing successful work in the Republic of Colombia. His district embraced hundreds of miles of territory, some of it never having been traveled by a white man. He suffered many hardships and narrow escapes from massacre, and his friends here pleaded with him to return, but he said he had decided to devote his life work among the semi-barbarous people of South America. He never appeared in the cities.

Father Valk's life work was notable indeed. On his first visit to South America it was reported that he had been killed in the wilderness and he was mourned as dead. Soon afterward he returned to Louisville. The old parishioners of St. Mary's were all shocked to hear of Father Valk's death, the news of which this time seems to be authentic.

Only a short time ago Rev. Albert Stroebel passed through the territory embraced in Father Valk's mission. The former was then on his way to St. Edward's Island. His next letter may contain the particulars of the cruel deed.

## MOURN HER DEATH.

Another Respected Catholic Lady Answers Final Summons.

It is with regret that we chronicle the passing away of another highly respected and well known Catholic lady in the person of Mrs. Mary O'Connor, the venerable and beloved mother of Rev. Father John O'Connor, rector of Holy Name church, and Miss Margaret O'Connor, also of this city. Mrs. O'Connor was a woman noted throughout Kentucky for her many Christian virtues and excellent traits of character, and the sad news caused deep gloom in many prominent homes. Her death occurred Tuesday at the residence of Father O'Connor, and the funeral was held at Holy Name church Thursday morning. The sanctuary was thronged with the faithful, and the church crowded with the solemn high mass for the repose of the soul. The remains will be interred in the Holy Name cemetery.

## SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Charles Kelly, residing at 1831 Market street, New Albany, is suffering from a badly mangled hand by a heavy piece of iron. Sulzer & Vogt's foundry.